

Central Intelligence Agency

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The Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Sir:

In Sunday's (21 August) issue of The Week in Review, you had an item on the recent documents which the CIA volunteered to the Congress on drug experimentation in the 1950s and early 1960s. Your final comment in this item averred that "the Agency documents were heavily censored before they were released" I take strong exception to that statement. There were only two types of deletions made from these documents. The names of the individuals involved were the first, and such deletion is required by law--the Privacy Act of 1974. The names of institutions were the second. Since many of the institutions involved were unwitting of their participation and many others participated only in perfectly proper experimentation, it seemed advisable to me not to risk damaging the reputations of these institutions by publishing their names. Instead, I have notified each institution and left it to their individual judgment as to whether to make public its participation. I have also provided the names of the institutions to the appropriate committees of Congress.

I write because the CIA's effort in this instance has been STATINTL as forthcoming with the public and the Congress as is legal and humane. I am distressed and disappointed by your erroneous characterization of this as censorship.

Yo

STANSFIELD TURNER

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Michael J. Malanick, Acting DDA

30 Aug

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